

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interactive program guide (IPG) comprising:
 - a database electrically coupled to a first network for storing television schedule information;
 - a television tuner electrically coupled to a second network, wherein the second network is in communication with the first network;
 - a display monitor electrically coupled to the second network;
 - a storage device electrically coupled to the second network for storing television programs;
 - an input device electrically coupled to the second network for receiving user inputs; and
 - a processor electrically coupled to the second network programmed for accessing the database to display a portion of the television schedule information on the display monitor in a guide format and for controlling the storage device to store a television program selected from the displayed television schedule information.
2. The IPG of claim 1, wherein the first network is the Internet.
3. The IPG of claim 1, wherein the second network is a home network.
4. The IPG of claim 1, wherein the first network and the second network are both parts of the Internet.
5. The IPG of claim 2, wherein the database is accessible via a web site.
6. The IPG of claim 1, wherein the storage device is a VCR.

7. The IPG of claim 1, wherein the storage device is a digital storage device.

8. The IPG of claim 1, wherein the selected television program is a future television program.

9. The IPG of claim 1, wherein the selected television program is a current television program.

10. The IPG of claim 1, further comprising means for controlling the television tuner to tune to the selected television program.

11. The IPG of claim 10, wherein the selected television program is a future television program.

12. The IPG of claim 10, wherein the selected television program is a current television program.

13. The IPG of claim 1 further comprising a second database electrically coupled to the second network and accessible from the IPG for providing previews of upcoming programs.

14. The IPG of claim 1 further comprising an icon displayed on the display for establishing a link to a product database for purchasing a product.

15. The IPG of claim 1 further comprising an icon displayed within the IPG for establishing a link to a service provider database for information independent of the user's program choice.

16. The IPG of claim 15 wherein, the service provider database includes one or more of news, whether, sports, scores, financial data, and local traffic.

17. The IPG of claim 1 further comprising a virtual agent for automatically searching the first network and providing pointers to locations in the first network based on preferences of the user.

18. The IPG of claim 17 wherein, the virtual agent learns from previous user choices for customizing the IPG for each particular user.

19. The IPG of claim 2 further comprising a chatroom Internet site related to a selected program.

20. The IPG of claim 1 further comprising a section for providing information about a particular future program.

21. The IPG of claim 20 wherein, the information about a particular future program includes one or more of a picture, video, and descriptive text.

22. The IPG of claim 20 wherein, the section for providing information about a particular future program is interactive in response to the user input.

23. The IPG of claim 1 further comprising a second database electrically coupled to the second network and accessible from the IPG for providing advertisements.

24. The IPG of claim 1 further comprising a second database electrically coupled to the second network and accessible from the IPG for storing television programs; means for retrieving a stored television program; and means for storing the retrieved television program in the storage device.

25. A method for displaying an interactive program guide (IPG) comprising the steps of:

5 storing television schedule information in a database
electrically coupled to a first network;

accessing the database to display a portion of the
television schedule information in a guide on a display monitor
electrically coupled to a second network, wherein the second
10 network is in communication with the first network;

receiving user inputs via an input device electrically
coupled to the second network;

tuning a television tuner electrically coupled to the second
network to a television program selected from the displayed
television schedule information; and

controlling a storage device electrically coupled to the
second network for storing a television program selected from the
displayed television schedule information.

20 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the first network is
the Internet.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the second network is
a home network.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein the first network and
the second network are both parts of the Internet.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the accessing step
30 comprises accessing the database via a web site.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein the storage device is
a VCR.

31. The method of claim 25, wherein the storage device is
a digital storage device.

32. The method of claim 25, wherein the selected television
program is a future television program.

33. The method of claim 25, wherein the selected television program is a current television program.

34. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of displaying previews of upcoming programs from a second database electrically coupled to the second network and accessible from the IPG.

35. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of displaying an icon for establishing a link to a product database for purchasing a product.

36. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of displaying an icon within the schedule guide for establishing a link to a service provider database for information independent of the user's program choice.

37. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of automatically searching the first network and providing pointers to locations in the first network based on preferences of the user.

38. The method of claim 25 further comprising the steps of learning from previous user choices and customizing the display of the schedule guide for each particular user.

39. The method of claim 26 further comprising the steps of establishing a link to a chatroom Internet site related to a selected program and entering the chatroom.

40. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of providing information about a particular future program wherein, the information includes one or more of a picture, video, and descriptive text.

5 41. The method of claim 25 further comprising the steps of:
storing television programs in a second database
electrically coupled to the second network and accessible from
the IPG;

10 retrieving a stored television program; and
storing the retrieved television program in the storage
device.

15 42. A networked television schedule system comprising:
a database accessible via the Internet for storing
television schedule information;
a television tuner electrically coupled to a network,
wherein the network is in communication with the Internet;
a storage device electrically coupled to the network for
storing television programs received from the network; and
20 a processor electrically coupled to the network programmed
for accessing the database to display a portion of the television
schedule information on a display monitor and for controlling the
storage device to store via the network a television program
selected from the displayed television schedule information.

25 43. The system of claim 41, wherein the network is a home
network.

30 44. The System of claim 41, wherein the network is a part
of the Internet.

45. The System of claim 41, wherein the database is
accessible via a web site.

35 46. The System of claim 41, wherein the storage device is
a digital storage device.

47. The System of claim 41, wherein the selected television
program is a future television program.